

# Department of Human Services

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## Articles in Today's Clips Wednesday, February 27, 2008

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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## Essay: Poverty in Michigan

There was a time in America when we thought we were all in this together, and nobody should go without.

That was back when a lot of us baby boomers were growing up in the mid - 1960s.

Those were years in which I think we felt more self-confident about who we were and what our nation's place in the world was. We had won the greatest war in history. We had overcome the Great Depression. We were finally doing something about the biggest scandal in American history, the fact that we had systematically deprived black Americans of their rights.

And while all that was going on, President Lyndon Johnson came to the University of Michigan in May 1964 and proclaimed that we were going to build a Great Society. One of the key building blocks of that was to be a nationwide War on Poverty.

People got behind that idea. The popular myth is that a whole lot of money was thrown at the problem, but poverty proved impossible to cure, and eventually, we just gave up.

Conservatives, however, are still known to snort that too much money is being wasted on poor people.

The truth is that far less money was spent on the War on Poverty than commonly realized. And it was far more successful than almost anyone remembers. The government spent about \$20 billion in today's dollars, fighting poverty in the mid-1960s.

After that, appropriations dwindled as money was siphoned off for the Vietnam War. But over the next decade, as society gradually felt the impact of the various anti-poverty programs, the national poverty rate was cut almost in half, to barely over eleven percent.

Yet the way in which we felt about ourselves had changed. We weren't as sure as we used to be that we could solve all the problems. Vietnam had something to do with that.

There was also an ominous shift in ideology. We no longer saw the poor people as us; we saw them as... them. Most of us were openly skeptical about whether most of them could be helped.

I think some of that came from experiences people had during the War on Poverty. Some of the starry-eyed were disillusioned when many of the poor turned out not to have good work habits.

They also tended to be lacking in social skills. Helping them proved to be harder than just finding them a job interview.

Well, guess what. Most really important things aren't easy to do. If they were, someone would have done them already.

I don't expect that most of the people I see standing outside the mission will manage to escape poverty themselves.

But there are more than half a million children in this state who are poor through no fault of their own. If we don't do what it takes to help them, we aren't even a good, let alone great, society.

And if they don't have any future in the long run, neither will we.

February 26, 2008

## **D.H.S.: STATE WON'T MEET FEDERAL WORK REQUIREMENTS, BUT LIKELY WON'T FACE SANCTIONS**

Although the Department of Human Services conceded on Tuesday that the state didn't meet the federal government's requirement to get at least half of welfare recipients to work or in training in fiscal year 2007, DHS staff said the state will most likely avoid \$38 million in federal sanctions by proving Michigan's economic hardship status and showing its plan to get more people working in fiscal year 2008.

Don Mussen, director of Family Support Services for the department, told members of the House Appropriations Human Services Subcommittee that because of federal rules that took effect last year that changed what could be counted as work, training or school activities under the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Grant, the year began with less than 10 percent of recipients meeting requirements.

The rule changes combined with the federal Department of Health and Human Services' change in the base year it uses to calculate work requirements made Michigan's 50 percent goal even more unattainable, Mr. Mussen said.

He said the changes put nearly every state in the country at risk of sanctions for its work participation rate; in fact Minnesota is the only state in Michigan's region that has reported it expects to meet its 50 percent goal in 2007.

However, DHS spokespeople were still telling legislators as late as last spring that perhaps with stepped up efforts it could get to a 50 percent participation rate avoid a possible federal 5 percent sanction on \$775 million it receives in TANF funds.

The department scrambled to get work participation up, Mr. Mussen said, pouring over cases to make sure no one who was working was left out of the count and racing to fully implement the Jobs Education and Training program statewide on time.

When JET went fully operational across Michigan by October, numbers increased, he said, and DHS expects the final tally to show a work participation rate of between 25 percent and 30 percent for 2007.

That should help DHS make the case to the federal government that it is on track to meeting the participation minimums for 2008, Mr. Mussen said.

A solid plan for 2008 and beyond, coupled with the fact that Michigan's dire economy meets HHS' guidelines for a state in hardship, should allow the state to avoid most if not all sanctions, said Ron Hicks, DHS legislative liaison.

But not everyone was sold on DHS' heavy reliance on JET to get the job done.

Though a report from June 2007 showed that the original JET pilot sites had 13 percent higher participation in qualifying TANF activities than clients who weren't provided JET's training and self-sufficiency approach, at that time, JET sites still only averaged a 36 percent work participation rate, leading some legislators to question the effectiveness of the approach in reaching the federal government's goal of 50 percent.

"You're saying that even if JET had been fully implemented, we still wouldn't have met our targets?" Subcommittee Chair [Rep. Dudley Spade](#) (D-Franklin Twp.) asked.

Mr. Mussen replied that Mr. Spade was correct but that JET could only do so much in a year when DHS began 40 percent below its goal, due to federal policy changes that reduced Michigan's work participation level from more than 25 percent to less than 10 percent.

But Mr. Mussen assured the subcommittee that DHS expects to be at or above a 50 percent participation rate for FY 2008, which means the threat of sanction will be removed altogether.

JET's implementation, combined with the department's efforts to tear down barriers to employment for its clients will solidify the state's goal, he said.

In 2009, new rules that allow the state to include study time for students as an allowable work activity and rules that change the way hours are counted will further help DHS in meeting higher participation goals, Mr. Mussen said.

## Mom charged with trying to poison baby

Posted by [Lisa Medendorp | The Muskegon Chronicle](#) February 26, 2008 16:36PM

Categories: [Top Stories](#)

An 18-year-old mother has been charged with first putting bleach then a cleanser into her baby's "sippy" cup drink with intent to harm the infant, authorities said.



Shatara Jones

The grandmother of the 1-year-old baby girl twice prevented the child from coming to any harm and called police, according to Muskegon Heights police and the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office.

The child's mother, Shatara Shenelle Jones, who lives in the 3000 block of Ninth Street, was arraigned Friday in 60th District Court on a charge of poisoning, which is a 15-year felony.

Judge Harold F. Closz III set bail at \$25,000 cash or surety and scheduled preliminary examination for 9:30 a.m. on March 6.

"In her statement to police, she indicated she had thoughts of killing her child because of problems with her boyfriend, the father of the child," said Muskegon County Prosecutor Tony Tague.

Jones is charged with poisoning because she allegedly "did willfully mingle" a poison or harmful substance with a drink, knowing that it might be ingested.

"It's highly unusual to have a mother attempt to poison her child," Tague said. "This is the first time I've seen a case of this nature in my 25 years of prosecution."

Muskegon Heights Police Detective Steve White said officers responded to a Feb. 18 call from the baby's grandmother who was having "domestic issues with her adult child." Jones and the baby live with the grandmother.

White said the young mother had some "depression issues," but added that the motive for her alleged actions was unclear.

The grandmother told police that her daughter usually stayed in her room all day when she was having "issues," White said.

The grandmother checked once on the daughter and the crying baby, who were in the bedroom, then checked a second time. After the second time, the grandmother noticed a "sippy" cup sitting on the kitchen stove, White said.

"She smelled what she thought was bleach," White said. Tague said the bleach had been mixed with milk. Both said the grandmother poured it out.

White said the baby's mother and grandmother argued, and the daughter then allegedly poured pop in the cup, took it in the bathroom and added cleanser.

"The grandmother interjected herself to safeguard the child on both occasions," Tague said.

After intervening a second time, the grandmother called her two sons to help her restrain the mother of the child, White said.

White said the Department of Human Services made an assessment at the home and the baby was then left with a sister of the defendant, who lives elsewhere.

The mother of the baby was not lodged that day, but the case was further investigated and a warrant was issued after a review by the prosecutor's office, White said.

Feb 27, 9:12 AM EST

## **Muskegon County teen charged with trying to poison her baby**

MUSKEGON, Mich. (AP) -- An 18-year-old from Muskegon Heights is charged with trying to poison her baby.

Police tell WZZM-TV that Shatara Jones tried to make the 1-year-old drink bleach and cleanser.

Authorities tell The Muskegon Chronicle that the child's grandmother twice saved the baby from harm and called police. Jones and the infant live with the grandmother. Jones' boyfriend is the baby's father.

Muskegon Heights Detective Steve White says the young mother had some "depression issues," but added the motive for her alleged actions was unclear.

Efforts to reach Jones for comment were unsuccessful Wednesday morning. Jones was arraigned Friday on a charge of poisoning, which is a 15-year felony.

A preliminary examination is set for March 6.





## Why Is There Seemingly So Much Child Abuse in Jackson?

Posted: 6:12 PM Feb 26, 2008  
Last Updated: 7:52 PM Feb 26, 2008  
Reporter: Lauren Zakalik  
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 Why Is There Seemingly So Much Child Abuse in Jackson?



An 8-month old baby boy becomes the latest publicized victim of child abuse in Jackson County-- a county that continues to battle this heinous crime.

[A](#) | [A](#) | [A](#)

"There's a lot going on with child abuse in Jackson County right now," says Renee Ingraham of the Jackson County Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Ingraham says the number of confirmed cases of child abuse in Jackson County is up 33 percent from 2005 to 2006. And an annual "Kids Count" report paints an even grimmer picture of the county, showing a 134 percent increase in child abuse cases from 2000 to 2006. □

"What that says to me is it's more than just reporting," Ingraham says. "The more you report, you may have an increase in just cases reported, but not necessarily substantiated cases."

Child abuse is an issue all over Michigan, but there are certain factors that make child abuse an even bigger issue in the Jackson area.

Ingraham lists "The economy. The poverty. The substance abuse. There are a lot of risk factors in Jackson that are contributing to the child abuse going on here."

Jackson County Sheriff Dan Heyns says for every report his department takes, there are likely some slipping by.

"[Child abuse cases] present investigatively a challenge because the victims often can't tell officers what's happening," Heyns says.

But with a crime that shows no slowing down, and its victims often without advocates, anti-child abuse crusaders have their work cut out for them.

### Find this article at:

<http://www.wilx.com/news/headlines/15999682.html>

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[Print Page](#)

\$50 million in child support collected

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008 10:28 AM EST*

LANSING - Attorney General Mike Cox announced Monday that his Child Support Division surpassed the \$50 million mark in child support collection.

As a result, 4,596 children received direct financial assistance equaling \$11,010.55 per child.

Over the last five years, Michigan has led the nation in reducing the number of child support cases in arrears (41,229 cases), as well as in percentage decrease (6.3 percent).



## THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

### Ex-deputy gets year in jail

He was convicted of aggravated assault, probation violation

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

**BY SUSAN L. OPPAT**

**The Ann Arbor News**

A former Washtenaw County sheriff's deputy was sentenced to one year in jail Tuesday after he was found intoxicated and carrying a knife and gloves outside his ex-girlfriend's home last October.

David Glover, 39, was given credit for 129 days served and may be released to an in-patient substance abuse treatment center. He was convicted of aggravated stalking and violation of probation.

Glover was an 11-year sheriff's deputy when he was arrested a year ago on charges of home invasion, assault, domestic violence and phone tampering. In that case, he was accused of breaking into his former girlfriend's Ypsilanti Township home and assaulting her.

Glover pleaded no contest to the lesser charges and was sentenced in August to 18 months of probation. He resigned from the sheriff's department the same month.

Two months later, Glover was arrested on new charges of stalking and violating the terms of his probation, which forbid contact with the woman. He has been held in the jail, isolated from other inmates, since then.

He pleaded guilty to violating probation and no contest to the stalking charge.

"I know my behavior has not reflected my personality of the 11 years" before his arrest, Glover said Tuesday.

Circuit Judge Donald E. Shelton called Glover "an example of a person who can do good things in this world when you're not drinking, and who can do bad things when you are."

He also placed Glover on two years of probation after his release, and ordered Glover not to have contact with the woman and not to use alcohol or drugs.

Susan Oppat can be reached at [soppat@annarbornews.com](mailto:soppat@annarbornews.com) or 734-482-1166.

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# The County Press

## Man sent to prison for holding wife in basement

by SUSAN YOUNGER  
staff reporter

An Imlay City veterinarian and former reserve police officer will spend up to 15 years in prison for threatening a daycare and handcuffing his young wife during an armed standoff with police nearly 13 months ago.

Circuit Court Judge Justus Scott sentenced Kurt Ashley Henkel, 44, of Imlay Township on Tuesday to a minimum of 2 years, five months to 15 years on felony charges of unlawful imprisonment. He received a 390-day sentence, with credit for 390 days already served, on one count of interfering with electronic communication. Henkel must also pay court fees and costs including a \$7,500 defense bill submitted by his Almont-based attorney Bob Schellig.

"I hope you understand the depth of the torment you have caused by your actions," Scott said.

Prior to sentencing, Henkel did not make eye contact with his wife who delivered a passionate impact statement. She said she's moved from the area and her life and their young daughter's life is forever altered.

"There is never a time when I don't look over my shoulder, especially when I'm outside," she said. "Most nights I check the blinds to see if anyone is outside."

Problems surfaced about 4:45 p.m. Jan. 31, 2007, when 9-1-1 dispatcher Robin Pastue received a call for help from a screaming woman. Pastue lost contact, called Verizon Telephone company and tracked down the number to the Henkel family's Country Pride Lane home in Imlay Township.

She dispatched Lapeer County Sheriff's Department deputies who observed Henkel, who was armed. He'd handcuffed his wife, then 23, to a pole in the basement.

Henkel, a former Charlevoix reserve police officer, fired off at least three rounds from a shotgun while locked in a standoff with law enforcement. He claimed to have hidden a bomb at his baby daughter's daycare. A Lapeer City Police bomb dog search determined that threat was a hoax.

His wife was released unharmed at 9:30 p.m. and 30 minutes later Henkel surrendered.

Henkel plead guilty Jan. 25 to a plea agreement reached between Lapeer County Assistant Prosecutor Steve Beatty and attorney Schellig.

Click here to return to story:

<http://www.countypress.com/cgi-bin/printme.pl>

2/27/2008



## Muskegon Chronicle

### Nurse's aide arrested for abusing elderly couple

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

**By Lisa Medendorp**

**lmedendorp@muskegonchronicle.com with local reports**

A nurse's aide has been charged with abusing an elderly man and woman in their Muskegon Township home last weekend during a tirade that included urinating on the 81-year-old woman.

Timothy Andrew Carl, 26, is charged with two counts of vulnerable victim abuse, according to Muskegon County Prosecutor Tony Tague, whose office authorized a warrant late Tuesday afternoon.

If convicted, Carl, of 1616 Westwind Court, Laketon Township, could receive up to 15 years in prison. He was picked up Tuesday afternoon and lodged at the Muskegon County Jail.

The nurse's aide, an employee of Unified Health Partners, 636 W. Summit, had been hired to assist the couple in their home. Eric Seifert, co-owner of Unified Health Partners, said a background check of Carl before he was hired nearly two years ago came back clean, and that there had never been any complaints about him before. Carl has since been fired, Seifert said.

A Muskegon Township police report said that on Friday night, at the end of his regularly scheduled work shift, Carl started throwing food around the couple's kitchen. The elderly couple had no idea why, police reported.

The next morning, Carl, who had not been scheduled to work and was not authorized by Unified Health Partners to be in the home, returned to the couple's home, saying he was going to clean up the mess.

Tague said Carl started cleaning up the kitchen. When the 81-year-old man came in to check on him, Carl, who is 6-6 and weighs 220 pounds, "went right into the living room and began urinating on the hair and shoulder of the elderly woman who was sitting in a chair."

Muskegon Township police said the woman is physically unable to care for herself. The police report said the husband saw the aide urinating on the left side of her head.

The husband confronted the aide, and "at that point the suspect went into the bathroom and got a container of liquid hand soap and poured it over the elderly man's head," Tague said.

The elderly man told him to stop it, and Carl began throwing soap around the house, Tague said. The suspect also picked up a bottle of Milk of Magnesia and threatened to pour it over the elderly man's head, he said.

"The elderly couple did nothing to him," Tague said.

Police said they didn't know what made the aide so angry.

The police report said Carl indicated that he had anger management problems. He also said he was bipolar and had been off his medication for about 10 days, but had started a new prescription that weekend, police reported.

The elderly man called 911 about 9:30 a.m. Saturday to report the incident. Muskegon Township police arrested Carl on Sunday at his home for misdemeanor assault and battery, took him to Community Mental Health for an evaluation and lodged him at the jail. He then bonded out of jail.

Seifert said he was upset by the actions of his former employee.

"We're very concerned about our clients," he said. "This is extremely unusual and disturbing."

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# DMC moves to end fight with WSU

## Board pledges to care for poor patients

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BY PATRICIA ANSTETT • FREE PRESS MEDICAL WRITER •  
FEBRUARY 27, 2008

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The Detroit Medical Center's Board of Trustees made several important conciliatory moves Tuesday to try to resolve a \$12-million dispute with Wayne State [University's](#) School of Medicine over physician pay. DMC's board chairman also promised to provide any care to the poor its university partner may have to drop.

The medical center and its board are "here to provide care to the neediest in our community and that's not going to go away," said Stephen D'Arcy, chair of the DMC board, in a telephone interview. "Our board authorized management to do what is necessary to see there is no interruption" in patient care, he said.

The moves came on a day of fast-moving developments in a dispute between Detroit's two most important [health care](#) partners that affect care to thousands of poor Detroiters.

Earlier Tuesday, Gov. Jennifer Granholm called on both sides to settle the dispute by meeting with Rochester attorney David Fink, the mediator she named in 2006 to help reach a 3 1/2 -year physicians' agreement between WSU and DMC. Liz Boyd, a Granholm spokeswoman, said the governor favors bringing in an outside expert to review whether DMC pays WSU doctors too much, in violation of federal law, as DMC contends.

WSU's leadership also made its most impassioned plea Tuesday, in a meeting at the Free Press, for reinstatement of \$12 million in doctors' pay from the DMC. Concern has been growing since WSU officials told the Free Press last week that they will need to cut physicians and staff, and possibly eliminate entire programs, if the dispute isn't settled.

The dispute began Feb. 1, when the DMC alerted WSU it was withholding the money at a rate of \$1 million a month, retroactive to October, because it did not want to violate federal law prohibiting excessive pay to doctors.

WSU and the state's [Medicaid](#) director, Paul Reinhart, say WSU doctors are not overpaid and that new Medicaid reimbursement the state gives to supplement the pay of some university-affiliated doctors who care for low-income patients does not fully reimburse them.

The retroactive date reflects the time when Michigan's Medicaid program began paying WSU and other university-affiliated doctors higher rates for care of indigent patients.

Comparing the latest disagreement to "a giant thumb in the eye of the university," Eugene Driker, chair of the Board of Governors at WSU, said Tuesday that the university is flabbergasted by moves its longtime partner, the DMC, continues to make that he said could hurt the school's ability to teach, provide care and build research in the region.

"This isn't about money. It's about people, patient care, educating medical students, a staff of a couple thousand people, the whole research component the city is trying to strengthen to shift the economy to a knowledge-based community," Driker said.

"When the community looks years from now and asks, 'Why did this all fall apart?' we will have to say we are left mystified as to why this is happening," Driker said. "There is a lack of collaborative spirit here."

But D'Arcy said DMC remains committed to be WSU's partner. The issue, he said, is clarifying whether the DMC violates federal law by paying doctors more than the fair-market value for services. The DMC board voted Tuesday to hire an expert in this area, known as the Stark law. The expert is to report to a newly created committee of the board.

D'Arcy also said the board voted to put the disputed funds in an interest-bearing escrow account as long as WSU and DMC could agree to the



account's specifics. "This is a complicated issue; the circumstances under which the money can be reached must be spelled out."

Dr. Robert Mentzer Jr., dean of the medical school, said before hearing about the DMC board vote that he expects cuts to be announced later in March in physician and staff positions, as well as entire programs. About 10 or 11 WSU departments, particularly internal medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, face the biggest reductions, he said.

Later, told of the DMC board moves, Dr. Valerie Parisi, vice dean for hospital relations and clinical affairs, said WSU would like to see the agreements in writing. Hiring an outside consultant and putting money in the escrow accounts are "moves in the right direction," she said.

In a related development, Driker said Tuesday that Granholm helped to negotiate the extra reimbursement the DMC now considers illegal. "She certainly did" help get the extra money, Driker said. "There was a \$10-million gap" in physicians' pay and she said, 'What can I do to help?' "

Granholm spokeswoman Megan Brown confirmed Tuesday the governor played a role in negotiating the Nov. 22, 2006, agreement between DMC and WSU.

Asked if that meant, as Driker said, that the governor helped get the higher pay for WSU doctors, Brown said the statement answered the question.

Contact **PATRICIA ANSTETT** at 313-222-5021 or *panstett@freepress.com*.



Wednesday, February 27, 2008

## CDC: All kids should get flu vaccine

**Kim Kozlowski / The Detroit News**

Federal officials decided today that all children should be vaccinated against the flu, dramatically expanding the scope of young people urged to be vaccinated against the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this year recommended that children up to the age of 5 get a flu shot but the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices on Wednesday expanded the current influenza vaccination recommendations to include all healthy children ages five to 18.

"It's long overdue," said Zack Yasich, a West Bloomfield resident who lost his 5-year-old daughter, Alana, to the flu in 2003. "It's just going to help save lives of children and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations."

The Michigan flu season, which is nearly over, has so far inflicted 174 people with the virus, including 66 children under the age of 18.

Nationally, flu kills 36,000 people a year and hospitalizes 20,000 children.

*You can reach Kim Kozlowski at (313) 222-2024 or [kkozlowski@detnews.com](mailto:kkozlowski@detnews.com).*

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February 26, 2008

## **COMMITTEE APPROVES TWICE MONTHLY FOOD STAMP PAYMENTS**

With the change to electronic processing of benefits, the cost of paying most food stamp recipients twice monthly rather than at the beginning of the month is significantly less than it was 20 years ago when the issue first surfaced in the Legislature. But members of the Senate Families and Human Services Committee did not commit to providing the Department of Human Services any additional funds should the proposal make it to the governor's desk.

As reported, food stamp recipients with more than \$150 in benefits would receive two monthly disbursements rather than the current one.

Supporters said the proposal would help recipients by ensuring they have a more steady flow of food money throughout the month and would help retailers by giving them a more steady flow of customers.

Representatives of retailers said they now have to stock up, and staff up, at the beginning of the month to handle the additional business but then cut back on produce and staff toward the middle of the month when food stamp funds begin to run out.

[Sen. Martha Scott](#) (D-Highland Park) said the proposal would also ensure food stamp recipients more fresh fruits and vegetables because they would not be stocking up at the beginning of the month.

Ron Hicks, spokesperson for the department, said initial implementation would cost about \$600,000 and ongoing operations would add \$300,000 a year to the program. And he said the change would have to be approved by the federal government because it pays half of the administration costs.

And he noted the \$600,000 implementation costs are not included in either the current or coming year budgets. (Although DHS does have \$600,000 set aside in the current budget to increase food stamp payments over a 19-day period, which was the department's solution to fix the concerns the twice-monthly approach seeks to address.)

"Obviously there's got to be work within the budget to accommodate this," said [Sen. Bill Hardiman](#) (R-Kentwood), who is also chair of the Senate Appropriations Human Services Subcommittee, adding there would not likely be efforts to add money to the budgets to cover the program.

The measure was reported to the Senate floor unanimously.

MIRS

February 26, 2008

## **Panel OK With Twice-A-Month Food Stamps**

The Senate Family and Human Services Committee moved legislation today allowing the Department of Human Services (DHS) to issue food stamps twice a month as opposed to once within the first 10 days of each month.

The bill language for **SB 0120** was introduced by Sen. Bill **HARDIMAN** (R-Kentwood) a year and a half ago and is sponsored by Sen. Martha G. **SCOTT** (D-Highland Park). The change is intended to help recipients maintain a more balanced amount of food throughout the month and thereby improve their nutrition.

Most recipients, who are under pressure to feed their families and have difficulty getting to the store without their own transportation, purchase all of their food at the beginning of the month when they receive the food stamps.

Studies have shown that food stamp recipients who get their food stamps from once-a-month systems have higher incidences of dietary health problems, including obesity, food vulnerability, food insecurity and nutrition balance issues.

"All the people in this room receive paychecks twice a month," Scott said.

"These people should be on **Panel OK With Twice-A-Month Food Stamps**

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"All the people in this room receive paychecks twice a month," Scott said. "These people should be on that same system."

The other issue is that food retailers have difficulty maintaining their inventories when the first week of the month brings an influx of food stamp recipients who buy groceries at levels disproportionate to the rest of the month. This, in turn, causes cash flow problems that are said to cause reduced hours for grocery store employees at the end of the month, layoffs and store closings. The DHS will receive \$600,000 to cover the costs of making the change. This will pay for modifications to the computer system and a short-term increase in hours for DHS employees, averaging two hours per employee due to short-term assistance to recipients while they adjust. Ongoing costs for distribution are not anticipated to be significant. The change in distribution will not affect recipients who receive less than \$150 each month and will not apply to issuing initial food assistance benefits, retroactive food assistance benefits or supplemental food assistance benefit.

A similar bill, [HB 4923](#), moved out of a House committee last week.

## Walk for Warmth raises \$4,268

Gladwin County Record

Last updated: Tuesday, February 26th, 2008 03:43:03 PM

Walk for Warmth participants make their way from St. Paul's Episcopal Church at the beginning of the 2008 event. All together, the Mid Michigan Community Action Agency's Walk for Warmth raised \$4,268 for Gladwin County. Participants gathered "pledges" of donations prior to the Walk. All money raised at Gladwin County's Walk for Warmth will help residents of Gladwin County. Walk for Warmth goal for 2008 is \$19,000. Mid Michigan Community Action Agency has about \$9,000 left to raise to meet that goal. The next opportunity for fundraising will be the "blue boots." The paper boots will be available at local businesses for \$1.



*Photo by Carissa Petherbridge*

Walk for Warmth participants make their way from St. Paul's Episcopal Church at the beginning of the 2008 event.

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our view

## ► in the point

A concerted effort by many individuals appears to be making a difference in Monroe County.

## Homelessness battle is leading to progress

In January, 2007, a survey found 142 individuals in Monroe County were homeless — living in local shelters or places not designed for long-term living. Last week, a new survey found that 101 of those people were no longer homeless.

It's certainly unfortunate that 41 from the original list still were homeless after a year. And more people are joining the ranks of the homeless all the time. Nevertheless, the numbers offer an encouraging sign.

What is Monroe County's recipe for progress?

It starts with planning. A steering committee two years ago began writing the county's 10-year Plan to End Homelessness. The Monroe County Board of Commissioners approved a final plan later that year.

Then comes implementation. Supporters went to work raising public awareness of what, for many people, is a hidden problem. Fundraisers and collection drives were held. The county effort focused on a "housing first" option, and with the help of hundreds of thousands of federal dollars paid for vouchers to get the homeless into housing.

But one key to the local program is to get help to individuals and families in need before they end up homeless. There's an effort to ensure that social service and health care needs are addressed; that people get the educational and employment support they need to secure a good job; that law enforcement, the courts and other institutions are active partners in the process.

Above all, the support of many interested individuals is crucial. There are many ways to help, as exemplified

by the six county residents honored last week at a Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Koffee Klub.

Joe Sterling, owner of Deniston Cinemas, opened his theater to events and showed "Pursuit of Happyness," a movie about homelessness. Ed and Elaine Widner, owners of Cafe Classics, for years have opened their cafe to different Homeless Awareness Week activities. County Commissioner Floreine Mentel supported the plan before the county board and in various other ways.

Former Mayor C.D. (Al) Cappuccilli pushed the plan before the city council and helped bring the director of the Michigan State Housing Authority to Monroe for events. Monroe Township Supervisor Alan Barron supported Project Homeless Connect and pushed community involvement.

Simple compassion compels the community to fight homelessness, but there are dollars-and-cents reasons, too, as Joe Grifka, director of Fairview, observes. Each homeless person costs communities about \$40,449 a year for psychiatric hospital care, emergency shelter and other needs. That's more than it costs to put a homeless person in a home.

Stephanie Kasprzak, director of the Monroe County Opportunity Program, cites the county efforts as being a model for the state. That's something county residents can be proud of. But fighting homelessness remains a huge challenge, especially considering the economic doldrums this region is in. County residents are encouraged to join the fight in whatever way they can.

On the Web: [www.monroe-homeless.org](http://www.monroe-homeless.org)

3/24/08

The Monroe  
Evening News



# Bay City homeless shelter opens men's wing

Posted by [Pati LaLonde | The Bay City Times](#) February 27, 2008 08:11AM



Stella S. Lee | Times Photo

Troy Roberts is the first resident to check in at the new homeless wing for single men at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission in Bay City.

*On first night, five men found a place to live*

Troy Roberts would have been living in his car by Friday, if not for the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission.

Roberts, originally from Bad Axe, has been living with friends for the past couple of weeks but was told he had to be out by Friday.

Luckily, the homeless shelter opened its new 24-bed men's wing on Tuesday. Roberts became the first guest.

It was "the best thing that could have happened to me so far," the 38-year-old man said.

Within the first hour of opening, one other man found a home at Good Samaritan, said Dan Streeter, the mission's director. By the end of the night, five men were taken in.

"Anyone homeless in Bay County now has a home," Streeter said.

The men's wing is the latest chapter in Good Samaritan's history. The shelter opened to women and children in 2005. There are 36 beds in the women's wing and 14 beds in the intact-family wing. The shelter averages 30 people a night, Streeter said. Last year, the shelter housed 400 adults and children.



Stella S. Lee | Times Photo

Troy Roberts' provisions at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission's new men's wing include a single twin bed, towels and basic toiletries.

Streeter estimates the men's wing will house 10-15 men per night.

The men's wing is opening on a bit of faith, he said.

The rescue mission needed to raise \$475,000 to open the six rooms. But the fundraising campaign came up \$65,000 short.

Streeter said he decided to open anyway because of the need.

Last year, 100 men inquired about staying, but had to be directed to the Rescue Mission of Saginaw, the parent organization of the Bay City shelter. Many, Streeter said, opted to head back to the streets instead.

"We're stepping out on faith," Streeter said. "We didn't get the full amount of support we needed. We got enough to get the doors open. It doesn't mean the work is done. We're just getting started."

The rough winter helped spur the need. Men are more inclined to be habitually homeless, working seasonal jobs and camping out or living in abandoned homes or underneath bridges, Streeter said.

The tough economy and lack of good-paying jobs are also factors in men being homeless.

Roberts said he came to Bay City to look for a better-paying job after leaving a job at the Wal-Mart in Bad Axe. He's hoping for a job in maintenance or fixing cars, but hasn't found one yet.



Stella S. Lee | Times Photo

Chris Overley, left, men's director at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, interviews Troy Roberts, the first resident of the new homeless wing for single men.

When his funds ran out, Roberts found himself without a home, or gas money to go look for another job.

Roberts, just like the women at the shelter, will be expected to go out daily to find a job and place to live. There are also rules to be followed and chores to be done, including cleaning up the area, doing laundry, and mopping the dining area and taking out the trash.

Doors to each wing are locked, and the men and women will only see each other during lunch and evening chapel services.

Chris Overley, who oversees the shelter, says the shelter has had at least 10 phone calls a day about the men's wing.

"It's just continuous," he said. "People come to warm up before they have to go back out under bridges or a field off Center Avenue. I've watched a man cry because he had to go back out. He's hurting."

While any donation is accepted, Streeter says the mission is in need of \$4,000 room sponsors, which can be paid over three years. Those donating \$1,000 will get their name on the Hall of Honor board.

For more information or to donate, call the mission at (989) 893-5973.

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Article published Feb 27, 2008  
Marshall Community Foundation supports The Haven  
The Haven of Rest  
Reader Submitted

The Haven of Rest would like to thank the Marshall Community Foundation for their continued generosity and support of The Haven's projects and initiatives. Since 2004 the Marshall Community Foundation has supported three very important projects for The Haven, totaling \$7,500 in grant funding.

"The Haven of Rest is truly grateful to the Marshall Community Foundation for the support they provide," said Executive Director of The Haven, Elaine Hunsicker. "We rely on the Marshall Community Foundation for certain projects and their generous assistance has allowed us to increase services and improve the difference we make in the lives of homeless men, women and children."

The Marshall Community Foundation's mission is to help make the Marshall area, including Calhoun County an even better place to live, work and raise a family. This is done by attracting permanently endowed funds from a wide range of donors serving as a conduit for special projects, distributing grants in support of innovative programs, while always being mindful to carry out the intention of donors.

Recently the Marshall Community Foundation awarded a grant for \$1,500 to The Haven for a much needed technology update. These grant monies allowed The Haven to purchase a new computer for The Haven's Controller allowing for an increase in communication with staff members and Haven clients as well as making it possible for The Haven to conduct essential financial functions.

The Funds of the Marshall Community Foundation support programs and organizations as diverse as the interests of the donors establishing them. Through their fund, donors are building a better tomorrow while creating their own personal legacies of charitable giving. The funds are fully invested, with income used to meet needs and enrich life in accordance with the donors' wishes. According to the Marshall Community Foundation's 2007 Annual Report; "the spirit of helping others, particularly when needed most, was quite evident when the Foundations asset base surpassed the \$10,800,000 million dollar mark. Over a thousand gifts were received in 2007 totaling \$434,000 in donations. This is a great testimony to a giving community." The Haven is truly grateful for all the support we receive from the Marshall Community Foundation...working together for our future.

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## Chili cook off raises over \$500

Gladwin County Record

Last updated: Monday, February 25th, 2008 09:50:48 AM

**WOODEN SHOE --** A chili cook off sponsored by the Wooden Shoe Big Boys Club raised more than \$500 Feb. 16.

The event, held at the Wooden Shoe Bar, featured a chili cook off and a raffle.

All funds raised go back into the Gladwin Community through Mid Michigan Community Action Agency, Michigan Department of Human Services, Sacred Heart and Salvation Army.

Judges Deb Schafer, Mid Michigan Community Action Agency regional outreach coordinator; Ron Haines, 103.1 WDGN Country disc jockey; and Michelle Graves, Gladwin County Record & Clarion reporter, ranked chili from 14 entrants.

After ranking the samples on a scale of one to 10, 10 being the highest, and adding up the numbers, Waylon Richardson took first place and \$75, Joe Polselli won \$50 for second and C.C. Singer took home \$25 and third place.

Rick Doan, Marlo, Anita Foor, Michael J, Misty Janice, Scott Fransee, Texas Tony, Margaret Doan, Sherry Lemier, Judy Janice and Patti Rhodes received certificates of participation.



*Photo by Michelle Graves*

The Wooden Shoe Big Boys Club sponsored a Chili Cook Off Feb. 16 at the Wooden Shoe Bar. Waylon Richardson (left) took first, Joe Polselli won second (middle) and C.C. Singer won third.

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## News

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### 2-1-1 is 24/7 assistance

Local hotline offers help with health, human services

By Laura Mead

POSTED: February 26, 2008

ESCANABA — A free, 24/7, U.P.-wide telephone service offered through the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP) Agency of Escanaba is helping those in need of health and human services when they don't know where to turn.

The 2-1-1 service has been picking up speed throughout the nation and in May 2006, UPCAP, a non-profit organization, brought the service to the Upper Peninsula.

According to UPCAP employees, U.P. 2-1-1 is available for all individuals and families whether they are having trouble with fulfilling basic needs such as food and shelter, or are just looking for assistance and help.

The point of 2-1-1 is to make it easy for people to find the best help.

"Rather than looking through (telephone) books and directories, they just dial 2-1-1. It makes it simple and you're always going to be talking to a live person," said UPCAP President Jonathan Mead.

Right now, there are four certified call specialists working for U.P. 2-1-1.

According to Terry Thomma, administrative services manager at UPCAP, call specialists are trained to assess a caller's situation, help them find answers to their questions, and connect them to the appropriate agencies.

"All of our call specialists have been through very intensive training," said Thomma. "Each person is nationally certified and has received 500 hours of training, and course work. This is in addition to fulfilling a requirement of three years experience doing informational referral-type work."

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### Article Photos



Janice Holland, information and referral specialist at UPCAP, takes a call through the U.P. 2-1-1 service. Live call specialists are available through the U.P. 2-1-1 service 24 hours, seven days a week. (Daily Press photo by Laura Mead )

### Fact Box

Contact

For help with health or human services, dial:  
2-1-1

Michigan Department of Human Services

Contact: Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394

## **Michigan Department of Human Services Summarily Suspends the Family Day Care Home Certificate, Registration #DF410041343, of Melissa VanFossen**

Feb. 26, 2008

The Michigan Department of Human Services, Bureau of Children and Adult

Licensing, issued an order of summary suspension and notice of intent to revoke the certificate of registration of Kent County family day care home provider Melissa VanFossen, 4759 Cannonsburg Road, Belmont, Michigan.

This

action resulted from a recent investigation of a complaint of the child day care family home.

The Feb. 25, 2008, complaint investigation found violations of the Child Care Organizations Act and administrative rules regarding care and supervision; bedding and sleep equipment; nighttime care; medication; home maintenance and safety, heating; ventilation; lighting; animals and pets; and parent notification of incidents, accidents or illness.

Effective 6 p.m., Feb. 26, 2008, the Summary Suspension Order prohibits Melissa VanFossen from operating a family day care home at 4759

Cannonsburg

Road, Belmont, Michigan, or at any other address or location. Accordingly, she may not accept children for care after that date and time. The order also requires Ms. VanFossen to inform all of the parents of children in her care that her certificate of registration has been suspended and that she can no longer provide day care.

Ms. VanFossen has held a certificate of registration to operate a family day care home since July 21, 1994. The certificate of registration was for



six children.

Michigan law defines a day care family home "as a private home in which 1 but fewer than 7 minor children are received for care and supervision for periods of less than 24 hours a day, unattended by a parent or legal guardian, except children related to an adult member of the family by blood, marriage, or adoption."

For more information, consult DHS Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs)

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